

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 3798 ACTION SECSTATE INFO OECD PARIS
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SUBJECT: INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS

REF: USUN 3674

1. SUMMARY: AT SEPTEMBER 17 MEETING SEVEN WEO'S
FORMALLY PRESENTED THEIR CANDIDACIES FOR ILLICIT PAYMENTS
WORKING GROUP AND THE NETHERLANDS INDICTED IT LIKELY
TO DO SO. WEO CHAIRMAN WILL RAISE QUESTION WITH CHAIRMAN
OF THE OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AND
REPORT BACK TO WEO GROUP THE SAME DAY. END SUMMARY.

2. AT U.S. INITIATIVE, WEO MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 17
CONSIDERED GROUP CANDIDATES FOR SUBJECT WORKING GROUP.
PRIOR TO THE MEETING, WE HAD CONTACTED ALL WEO NEW YORK
MISSIONS SUGGESTING, IN EFFECT, THAT THEY SEEK INSTRUCTION.
IN INTRODUCING ITEM AT THE MEETING, US REPRESENTATIVE EM-
PHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE THE USG ATTACHES TO ISSUE OF ILLICIT
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PAYMENTS AND URGED EXPENDITIOUS WEO ACTION IN AGREEING ON

A SLATE OF CANDIDATES IN VIEW OF SCHEDULED RESUMED SESSION OF 61ST EDOSOC ON SEPTEMBER 24. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME DIFFICULTIES IN WORKING OUT AN EIGHTEEN-MAN WORKING GROUP, EXPRESSED OUR DESIRE NOT TO EXCLUDE ANY COUNTRY WITH A LEGITIMATE INTEREST, BUT ARGUED THE MERITS OF A SMALL, EFFICIENT GROUP IN VIEW OF THE TECHNICAL SUBSTANCE INVOLVED AND HOPES FOR MEANINGFUL PROGRESS BY THE 63RD ECOSOC.

3. THE FOLLOWING PRESENTED THEIR CANDIDACIES: ITALY, CANADA, FRANCE, UK, FRG, US AND A NORDIC (NOT YET IDENTIFIED). THE NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, HAD DEFERRED PRESENTING ITS CANDIDACY TO SEE IF THE WEO'S COULD AGREE ON A SLATE WITHIN THE EIGHTEEN-MEMBER FORMULA, AND NOW WOULD SEEK NEW INSTRUCTIONS. SWITZERLAND SOUGHT OBSERVER STATUS ON THE WORKING GROUP.

4. FINAL CONSENSUS OF THE MEETING WAS THAT THE WEO CHAIRMAN (AMBASSADOR INGVARSSON OF ISELAND) WOULD RAISE THIS ITEM AT A MEETING OF REGIONAL GROUP CHAIRMEN SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20. HE WILL UNDERLINE THE STRONG WEO INTEREST IN THE WORKING GROUP AND SEEK TO ACCOMMODATE WEO CANDIDATES WITHIN THE EIGHTEEN-MAN FORMULA. IF, AS EXPECTED, THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, AMBASSADOR INGVARSSON WILL EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF ENLARGING THE GROUP ARGUING IN THE PROCESS, THAT THE GROUP SHOULD REFLECT SUBSTANTIVE INTEREST AND THUS NEED NOT FOLLOW PREVIOUS GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTIONS. IN REPORTING THIS CONSENSUS, AMBASSADOR INGVARSSON TOOK NOTE OF OUR APPEAL THAT THE WORKING GROUP BE AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE.

5. WEO GROUP TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO MEET LATE MONDAY AFTERNOON TO HEAR THE REPORT ON THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING WITH OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS.

6. JAPAN HAS CIRCULATED A NOTE ANNOUNCING ITS CANDIDACY AS A MEMBER OF THE ASIAN GROUP AND WILL RAISE THIS QUESTION AT THE ASIAN GROUP MEETING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.
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